WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Golden Quadrilateral Scheme

†*81. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme has suffered a set back due to involvement of some fake companies and losses to the tune of crores of rupees have occurred;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits and the steps taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of hydrogen energy

*82. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan for production of hydrogen energy;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the areas where the hydrogen energy would be put to use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) A National Hydrogen Energy Road Map up to 2020 has been recently prepared by a Steering Group on Hydrogen Energy set up by the National Hydrogen Energy Board which has been constituted by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The Steering Group consisted of high level representatives from industry, leading scientists and technologists and eminent public figures. The Road Map has considered all components of the hydrogen energy system, that is, production, storage, transport and delivery, applications and safety aspects. It includes production of hydrogen from indigenous sources such

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

as coal, nuclear and renewable energy including solar, wind, biomass, micro-hydro and biological routes.

Hydrogen energy would be mainly used for transport and power generation applications. The Road Map has projected that one million hydrogen fueled vehicles will be on Indian Roads and 1000 MW hydrogen based aggregate power generation capacity will be set up in the country, by 2020.

Vote against Iran on Nuclear Issue

*83. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the U.S. Ambassador to India to the effect that if India did not vote against Iran on nuclear issue at the International Atomic Energy Agency, the fall out on July 18, 2005 deal would be devastating and the initiative would die; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention was drawn to an interview given by US Ambassador David Mulford on January 25, 2006 in which he said that if India decided not to vote with US and EU 3 on the Iran nuclear issue, its effect on the civil nuclear cooperation initiative would be "devastating" and that the US Congress would "simply stop considering the matter".

The Government responded on January 25 itself by issuing a statement that India's position on the Iran nuclear issue at the IAEA will be based on India's own independent judgement and national interests. The Government categorically rejected any attempt to link this to the proposed India-US agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation , which stood on its own merits. Foreign Secretary called in the US Ambassador on January 26, 2006 to convey to him that the remarks made by him "were inappropriate and not conducive to building a strong partnership between our two independent democracies". Foreign Secretary informed the US Ambassador that India's vote on any possible resolution on the Iran nuclear issue at the IAEA would be determined by India's own